



Our Vision: The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, and management of passenger rail equipment.

NGEC Technical Subcommittee

MINUTES FEBRUARY 29, 3:00PM EASTERN TEAMS MEETING
2024

FACILITATOR	<i>Dan Ruppert, Chair, NGEC Technical Subcommittee</i>
ATTENDEES	Core Team Members: <i>Dan Ruppert, Joe Paul, Melissa Shurland, Curtis McDowell, Ray Hessinger, Ed Engle, Matt Hensley, Curt Massie, Kirk Fredrickson, Kevin Myles, Tammy Krause, Steve Hewitt,</i> Industry Members: <i>Rich Stegner, Paul Jamieson, Jack Madden, Allen Meeks, Rich Bowie, Ed Golitko, Norman Forde, Paul Arnone, Bill Luebke</i>
ABSENTEES	<i>Ryan Sharpe, Matthew Simmons, Troy Hughes, Art Peterson, Mike Jenkins, Marci Petterson, Blair Slaughter, Barley Fields, Jennifer Bastian, Tarek Omar, Jodi Lehmkuhl</i>

DISCUSSION/DECISIONS MADE

1.	<p>Technical subcommittee Chair Dan Ruppert, Amtrak, called the meeting to order and asked Steve Hewitt to call the roll of core team members.</p> <p>After calling the roll, Steve Hewitt at first could not confirm a quorum, but later in the meeting a quorum was confirmed and the meeting was official.</p> <p>As always, industry participants are asked to email a notification of their attendance to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p>
2.	<p>Review Action Items – Steve Hewitt, NGEC Program Manager:</p> <p>2024 NGEC Backgrounder educational document:</p> <p>The 2024 NGEC two-pager is now available in hard copy by request of Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p> <p>To date 460 copies have been distributed.</p> <p>Maintaining Industry Participation List:</p> <p>There are currently around 200 industry participants.</p> <p>Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.</p> <p>CtDOT Rail car Procurement:</p> <p>On 2-2-24, at the NGEC Annual Meeting, Marci Petterson, CtDOT provided an update presentation (available on the website at www.ngec.org)</p> <p>Next Update: As Appropriate</p> <p>University of Nebraska/FRA High Speed Wireless Study as of 2-2-24:</p>

Hamid Sharif, University of Nebraska, provided a summary presentation on the High-Speed Wireless Study during the NGEC Annual Meeting. The presentation is available on the NGEC website at www.ngec.org.

This study, as of 2-2-24 had not been granted funding from FRA for its next phase. The item will be tabled until further information is received.

**3.
Approval of the Minutes from 1-18-24:**

After a quorum was established this item was taken up at a later point in the meeting. On a motion by Ed Engle, Iowa DOT, and a second by Matt Hensley, MODOT, the minutes from 1-18-24 were approved as presented.

**4.
2024 Annual Meeting Overview/Feedback – Dan, Steve, All:**

Steve Hewitt opened the discussion by noting that, although there were technical issues with Teams which delayed the start of the meeting, once it got underway it flowed well and was successful. There were around 50 in-person attendees and 40-45 virtual attendees. This number is down somewhat from the last Annual Meeting, but still a significant number showing strong interest continues in the work of the NGEC.

Steve noted that the presentations were some of the best, most informative that he has seen since the start of the NGEC. As more work is getting done and vehicles are being produced and in service, there is more to say and the presentations attest to that.

Steve added that elections were held and the State members of the Executive Board were elected to new two-year terms. All ten of the states that have been on the Board remained – some with new representation due to retirements or other changes. Officers were also named for a two-year period.

The officers are:

Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT – Chair
Dan Ruppert, Amtrak – Vice Chair and Chair of the Technical subcommittee
Tim Ziethen, Amtrak – Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Administrative subcommittee (FASC)
Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT – Secretary and Second Vice Chair of the FASC

Steve Hewitt added that he thought Ray Hessinger, NGEC Chair, did a tremendous job in chairing the meeting remotely when he was unable to attend in-person at the last minute. Steve thought Ray deserved a lot of credit for running the meeting without the ability to see the room – since there were no cameras so only the presentations were seen.

Ray Hessinger commented “I would rather do it in person” than remotely.

Dan Ruppert also complimented Ray on the amazing job he did chairing the meeting remotely. He added that he thought the presentations were “sharp and good with a lot of information relative to what is going on” in passenger rail. He noted that he would “love to get input on how, as a team, we can grow and get more involvement...love to see if we can get more technology information.” He would like to see information provided from others in the NGEC organization on new technology that is out there. It is great to get updates and info on new technology and great “for junior level folks to be in front of an audience and be as well versed as this.” Overall, Dan felt that the Annual Meeting was well organized and he expressed his thanks to those who helped to put it together.

**5.
Update: Multi-State Venture Car procurement – Steve Hewitt for Caltrans:**

Steve Hewitt read into the record the update he received from Caltrans for inclusion in the minutes of this meeting:

The Cab Car FDR is now approved, and all FDR stages are complete. The Cab Car and Café Car MCAT simulation reports have been approved by the states and the FRA.

The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan is being revised based on recent comments for return to Amtrak and subsequent submittal to FRA. The first cab car and café car are being prepared for shipment.

All 137 cars are in production or have been produced at Siemens Sacramento Facility. IDOT coaches and Caltrans trainsets are currently in revenue service and additional cars are being added as they are commissioned and accepted.

Joe Paul, Amtrak, reported that he believes the first cab car and coach were delivered or to be delivered today (2-29-24).

**6.
Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement – Ray Hessinger, NYSDOT:**

Ray Hessinger reported that as of Metro-North's January update: All FDRs are closed. Final Design of the locomotive is in process. Locomotive 301 is complete with testing anticipated around June 2nd. Locomotive 302 is ready for engine installation. Metro-North and Siemens are coordinating FAI testing and inspection process for shock and vibration collection assembly for third rail.

**7.
Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

On the Acela:

Staging and testing continues – they are about halfway through Stage 1 and are optimistic that it can be wrapped up in a month or two and move on to stage 2.

On the Airo trainset: Progress is strong – there are 34 in production – 32 coaches and 2 locomotives. Final FAIs and FDRs are taking place on open items on the café cars. The first trainset is anticipated to be on the corridor for testing in 2025 – there is a lot of optimism.

On the ALC 42:

They continue to get units in Wilmington for final testing. Thus far 48 have been accepted into service. 10 have been commissioned and are in the transit process. 67 are continuing in production. Dan added that there has been an improvement in the performance of the equipment and that the FAIs have had a positive impact.

On the GP38 Acquisition:

There continues to be a bit of a struggle with the vendor in getting it into service.

On the Long-Distance Trainsets:

An RFP went out in December 2023 and this is an active procurement.

**8.
Document Control Update- Tammy Krause:**

Tammy Krause provided the following update for inclusion in today's meeting minutes:

- *The Materials WG continues to meet regularly, their last meeting was 2/19 and their next meeting is 3/4.*
- *The Weight WG is planning to have one final meeting to review the DCRs that were received on their spec. The meeting will be held at a time to be determined by the availability of the DCR submitters. Dave wants them all on the meeting call so that the document can be finalized.*
- *I am working with the Technical Writer to create the DCRs for the single level document that are based upon previously submitted and approved DCRs for other specs that may apply to the single level.*

**9.
Other/Adjourn – Dan Ruppert, Amtrak:**

With no other business forthcoming, Dan Ruppert adjourned today's meeting at 3:33pm.

Next Tech Subcommittee meeting – 3-14-24

Decisions and Ongoing Action Items

2024 NGENC Backgrounder educational document:

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Maintaining Industry Participation List:

As of 2-29-24, there are currently around 200 industry participants.

Any updates or changes to this list should be sent to Steve Hewitt at shewitt109@aol.com.

Update: Multi-State Railcar Procurement as of 2-29-24:

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The Cab Car Complete FAI and FRA sample car inspections have occurred with final open items in review and closure. The Cab Car 238.111(b) test plan is being revised based on recent comments for return to Amtrak and subsequent submittal to FRA. The first cab car and café car are being prepared for shipment.

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Next Update: 3-14-24

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Next Update: 3-14-24

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This study, as of 2-2-24 had not been granted funding from FRA for its next phase. The item will be tabled until further information is received.

*Hamid Sharif
Advanced Telecommunications Engineering Lab
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Phone: 402-917-6363
Email: HSHARIF@UNL.EDU*

Metro North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement:

Per the January report from Metro-North:

All FDRs are closed. Final Design of the locomotive is in process. Locomotive 301 is complete with testing anticipated around June 2nd. Locomotive 302 is ready for engine installation. Metro-North and Siemens are coordinating FAI testing and

inspection process for shock and vibration collection assembly for third rail.

Next Update: 3-28-24

Connecticut DOT Rail Car Procurement:

On 2-2-24, at the NGEN Annual Meeting, Marci Petterson, CtDOT provided an update presentation (available on the website at www.ngec.org)

Next Update: As Appropriate

Amtrak Vehicle Procurements:

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Next Update: 3-28-24

Next Technical Subcommittee Meeting – 3-14-24

ATTACHMENTS



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PRIIA Section 305 Tech Sub Committee Meeting
3:00PM Eastern

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Agenda

2-29-24

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Roll Call | Steve Hewitt |
| 2. Review Action Items | Steve Hewitt |
| 3. Approve Minutes from 1-18-24 | Dan Ruppert |
| 4. 2024 Annual Meeting Overview/Feedback | Steve/Dan |
| 5. Update: Multi-State Venture Car Procurement | Ryan Sharpe |
| 6. Metro-North Dual Mode Locomotive Procurement | Ray Hessinger |
| 7. Update: Amtrak Vehicle Procurements | Dan Ruppert |
| 8. Document Control Update | Tammy Krause |
| 9. Adjourn | Dan Ruppert |

**Next Tech Subcommittee Meeting
3-14-24**